

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-135 effective Oct. 1, 1997, see section 3 of Pub. L. 105-135, set out as a note under section 631 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

§ 418. Advocates for competition**(a) Establishment, designation, etc., in executive agency**

(1) There is established in each executive agency an advocate for competition.

(2) The head of each executive agency shall—

(A) designate for the executive agency and for each procuring activity of the executive agency one officer or employee serving in a position authorized for such executive agency on July 18, 1984 (other than the senior procurement executive designated pursuant to section 414(3)¹ of this title) to serve as the advocate for competition;

(B) not assign such officers or employees any duties or responsibilities that are inconsistent with the duties and responsibilities of the advocates for competition; and

(C) provide such officers or employees with such staff or assistance as may be necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the advocate for competition, such as persons who are specialists in engineering, technical operations, contract administration, financial management, supply management, and utilization of small and disadvantaged business concerns.

(b) Duties and functions

The advocate for competition of an executive agency shall—

(1) be responsible for challenging barriers to and promoting full and open competition in the procurement of property and services by the executive agency;

(2) review the procurement activities of the executive agency;

(3) identify and report to the senior procurement executive of the executive agency designated pursuant to section 414(3)¹ of this title—

(A) opportunities and actions taken to achieve full and open competition in the procurement activities of the executive agency; and

(B) any condition or action which has the effect of unnecessarily restricting competition in the procurement actions of the executive agency; and²

(4) prepare and transmit to such senior procurement executive an annual report describing—

(A) such advocate's activities under this section;

(B) new initiatives required to increase competition; and

(C) barriers to full and open competition that remain;

(5) recommend to the senior procurement executive of the executive agency goals and the plans for increasing competition on a fiscal year basis;

(6) recommend to the senior procurement executive of the executive agency a system of personal and organizational accountability for competition, which may include the use of recognition and awards to motivate program managers, contracting officers, and others in authority to promote competition in procurement programs; and

(7) describe other ways in which the executive agency has emphasized competition in programs for procurement training and research.

(c) Responsibilities

The advocate for competition for each procuring activity shall be responsible for promoting full and open competition, promoting the acquisition of commercial items, and challenging barriers to such acquisition, including such barriers as unnecessarily restrictive statements of need, unnecessarily detailed specifications, and unnecessarily burdensome contract clauses.

(Pub. L. 93-400, §20, as added Pub. L. 98-369, div. B, title VII, §2732(a), July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 1197; amended Pub. L. 103-355, title VIII, §8303(a), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3398.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 414 of this title, referred to in subsecs. (a)(2)(A) and (b)(3), was amended generally by Pub. L. 108-136, div. A, title XIV, §1421(a)(1), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1666, and, as so amended, no longer contains a par. (3). See section 414(c)(1) of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-355 amended subsec. (c) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (c) read as follows: “The advocate for competition for each procuring activity shall be responsible for challenging barriers to and promoting full and open competition in the procuring activity, including unnecessarily detailed specifications and unnecessarily restrictive statements of need.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

For effective date and applicability of amendment by Pub. L. 103-355, see section 10001 of Pub. L. 103-355, set out as a note under section 251 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable to any solicitation for bids or proposals issued after Mar. 31, 1985, see section 2751 of Pub. L. 98-369, set out as an Effective Date of 1984 Amendment note under section 251 of this title.

§ 418a. Rights in technical data**(a) Regulations; legitimate proprietary interest of United States**

The legitimate proprietary interest of the United States and of a contractor in technical or other data shall be defined in regulations prescribed as part of the single system of Government-wide procurement regulations as defined in section 403(4)¹ of this title. Such regulations may not impair any right of the United States or of any contractor with respect to patents or copyrights or any other right in technical data otherwise established by law. Such regulations shall provide, with respect to executive agencies that are subject to the provisions of title III of

¹ See References in Text note below.

² So in original. The word “and” probably should not appear.

¹ See References in Text note below.

the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 [41 U.S.C. 251 et seq.], that the United States may not require persons who have developed products or processes offered or to be offered for sale to the public as a condition for the procurement of such products or processes by the United States, to provide to the United States technical data relating to the design, development, or manufacture of such products or processes (except for such data as may be necessary for the United States to operate and maintain the product or use the process if obtained by the United States as an element of performance under the contract).

(b) Unlimited rights; technical data; developed with Federal funds; unrestricted, royalty-free right to use; rights under law

(1) Except as otherwise expressly provided by Federal statute, the regulations prescribed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall provide, with respect to executive agencies that are subject to the provisions of title III of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 [41 U.S.C. 251 et seq.], that the United States shall have unlimited rights in technical data developed exclusively with Federal funds if delivery of such data—

(A) was required as an element of performance under a contract; and

(B) is needed to ensure the competitive acquisition of supplies or services that will be required in substantial quantities in the future.

(2) Except as otherwise expressly provided by Federal statute, the regulations prescribed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall provide, with respect to executive agencies that are subject to the provisions of title III of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 [41 U.S.C. 251 et seq.], that the United States (and each agency thereof) shall have an unrestricted, royalty-free right to use, or to have its contractors use, for governmental purposes (excluding publication outside the Government) technical data developed exclusively with Federal funds.

(3) The requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be in addition to and not in lieu of any other rights that the United States may have pursuant to law.

(c) Factors; regulations

The following factors shall be considered in prescribing regulations pursuant to subsection (a) of this section:

(1) Whether the item or process to which the technical data pertains was developed—

(A) exclusively with Federal funds;

(B) exclusively at private expense; or

(C) in part with Federal funds and in part at private expense.

(2) The statement of congressional policy and objectives in section 200 of title 35, the statement of purposes in section 2(b) of the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-219; 15 U.S.C. 638 note), and the declaration of policy in section 631 of title 15.

(3) The interest of the United States in increasing competition and lowering costs by de-

veloping and locating alternative sources of supply and manufacture.

(d) Provisions; contracts; regulations

Regulations prescribed under subsection (a) of this section shall require that a contract for property or services entered into by an executive agency contain appropriate provisions relating to technical data, including provisions—

(1) defining the respective rights of the United States and the contractor or subcontractor (at any tier) regarding any technical data to be delivered under the contract;

(2) specifying the technical data, if any, to be delivered under the contract and delivery schedules for such delivery;

(3) establishing or referencing procedures for determining the acceptability of technical data to be delivered under the contract;

(4) establishing separate contract line items for the technical data, if any, to be delivered under the contract;

(5) to the maximum practicable extent, identifying, in advance of delivery, technical data which is to be delivered with restrictions on the right of the United States to use such data;

(6) requiring the contractor to revise any technical data delivered under the contract to reflect engineering design changes made during the performance of the contract and affecting the form, fit, and function of the items specified in the contract and to deliver such revised technical data to an agency within a time specified in the contract;

(7) requiring the contractor to furnish written assurance at the time the technical data is delivered or is made available that the technical data is complete and accurate and satisfies the requirements of the contract concerning technical data;

(8) establishing remedies to be available to the United States when technical data required to be delivered or made available under the contract is found to be incomplete or inadequate or to not satisfy the requirements of the contract concerning technical data; and

(9) authorizing the head of the agency to withhold payments under the contract (or exercise such other remedies as the head of the agency considers appropriate) during any period if the contractor does not meet the requirements of the contract pertaining to the delivery of technical data.

(Pub. L. 93-400, § 21, as added Pub. L. 98-577, title III, § 301(a), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 3074; amended Pub. L. 99-145, title IX, § 961(d)(2), Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 704.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 403(4) of this title, referred to in subsec. (a), which defined “single system of Government-wide procurement regulations”, was repealed, and par. (5) of section 403 of this title was redesignated as par. (4), by Pub. L. 100-679, § 3(c), Nov. 17, 1988, 102 Stat. 4056.

The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (b)(1), (2), is act June 30, 1949, ch. 288, 63 Stat. 377, as amended. Title III of the Act is classified generally to subchapter IV (§ 251 et seq.) of chapter 4 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 21 of Pub. L. 93-400, as added Pub. L. 98-369, div. B, title VII, § 2732(a), July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 1198, was renumbered section 23 by Pub. L. 98-577 and is classified to section 419 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1985—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 99-145 substituted “the item or process to which the technical data pertains” for “the technical data”.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 301(c) of Pub. L. 98-577, as amended Pub. L. 99-145, title IX, § 961(d)(3), Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 704, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [enacting this section] shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 30, 1984]. The regulations required by such amendment shall be issued not later than October 19, 1985.”

§ 418b. Publication of proposed regulations**(a) Effective date; procurement policy, regulations, procedure or form; publication in Federal Register**

Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, no procurement policy, regulation, procedure, or form (including amendments or modifications thereto) relating to the expenditure of appropriated funds that has (1) a significant effect beyond the internal operating procedures of the agency issuing the procurement policy, regulation, procedure or form, or (2) a significant cost or administrative impact on contractors or offerors, may take effect until 60 days after the procurement policy, regulation, procedure, or form is published for public comment in the Federal Register pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, such a policy, regulation, procedure, or form may take effect earlier than 60 days after the publication date when there are compelling circumstances for the earlier effective date, but in no event may that effective date be less than 30 days after the publication date.

(b) Publication in Federal Register

Subject to subsection (c) of this section, the head of the agency shall cause to be published in the Federal Register a notice of the proposed procurement policy, regulation, procedure, or form and provide for a public comment period for receiving and considering the views of all interested parties on such proposal. The length of such comment period may not be less than 30 days.

(c) Notice; proposed policy; contents

Any notice of a proposed procurement policy, regulation, procedure, or form prepared for publication in the Federal Register shall include—

(1) the text of the proposal or, if it is impracticable to publish the full text of the proposal, a summary of the proposal and a statement specifying the name, address, and telephone number of the officer or employee of the executive agency from whom the full text may be obtained; and

(2) a request for interested parties to submit comments on the proposal and shall include the name and address of the officer or employee of the Government designated to receive such comments.

(d) Waiver

(1) The requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section may be waived by the officer authorized to issue a procurement policy, regulation, procedure, or form if urgent and compelling circumstances make compliance with such requirements impracticable.

(2) A procurement policy, regulation, procedure, or form with respect to which the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section are waived under paragraph (1) shall be effective on a temporary basis if—

(A) a notice of such procurement policy, regulation, procedure, or form is published in the Federal Register and includes a statement that the procurement policy, regulation, procedure, or form is temporary; and

(B) provision is made for a public comment period of 30 days beginning on the date on which the notice is published.

(3) After considering the comments received, the head of the agency waiving the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section under paragraph (1) may issue the final procurement policy, regulation, procedure, or form.

(Pub. L. 93-400, § 22, as added Pub. L. 98-577, title III, § 302(a), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 3076; amended Pub. L. 103-355, title V, § 5092, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3362; Pub. L. 104-106, div. D, title XLIII, § 4321(a)(9), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 671.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (d)(3). Pub. L. 104-106 made technical correction to directory language of Pub. L. 103-355, § 5092(b). See 1994 Amendment note below.

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-355, § 5092(a), substituted “60 days” for “30 days” and inserted at end “Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, such a policy, regulation, procedure, or form may take effect earlier than 60 days after the publication date when there are compelling circumstances for the earlier effective date, but in no event may that effective date be less than 30 days after the publication date.”

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-355, § 5092(b), as amended by Pub. L. 104-106, designated second sentence of subsec. (d)(2) as subsec. (d)(3).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Section 4321(a) of Pub. L. 104-106 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective as of Oct. 13, 1994, and as if included in Pub. L. 103-355 as enacted.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 302(b) of Pub. L. 98-577 provided that: “The procedures required by the amendment made by subsection (a) [enacting this section] shall apply with respect to procurement policies, regulations, procedures, or forms that an agency issues in final form on or after the date which is 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 30, 1984].”

§ 419. Contracting functions performed by Federal personnel**(a) Limitation on payment for advisory and assistance services**

(1) No person who is not a person described in subsection (b) of this section may be paid by an executive agency for services to conduct evaluations or analyses of any aspect of a proposal submitted for an acquisition unless personnel described in subsection (b) of this section with adequate training and capabilities to perform